

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GENEVA 03920 01 OF 02 132009Z
ACTION STR-07

INFO OCT-01 STRE-00 IO-13 ISO-00 OIC-02 AF-10 ARA-10
EA-10 EUR-12 NEA-10 AGRE-00 CEA-01 CIAE-00
COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 FRB-03 H-01 INR-10 INT-05
L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 CTME-00 AID-05
SS-15 ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 SP-02 SOE-02 OMB-01
DOE-11 /159 W

-----092056 132014Z /41

P 131822Z MAR 78
FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7155
INFO AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 01 OF 02 GENEVA 03920

USMTN

ACTION STR PASS ELECTRONICALLY

STR PASS CODEL

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ETRD, MTN
SUBJECT: MTN DEL/NORDIC MEETING ON TARIFF OFFERS UNDER
WORKING HYPOTHESIS

1. SUMMARY: USMTN DEL MET MORNING OF MARCH 10 TO DISCUSS
STATUS OF INDUSTRIAL TARIFF OFFERS WITH THREE NORDIC
DELS. SWEDEN PRESENTED US WITH DETAILED TARIFF OFFER.
FINNISH AND NORWEGIAN DELS GAVE SOME INDICATIONS FOR
EXCEPTIONS, BUT STATED THAT DETAILED OFFERS FROM THEM
MAY NOT BE FORTHCOMING FOR ANOTHER MONTH. MTN AND
NORDIC DELS ALSO AGREED TENTATIVELY ON DATE OF MARCH 21
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PAGE 02 GENEVA 03920 01 OF 02 132009Z

TO HAVE INITIAL REVIEW OF AGRICULTURAL OFFERS. END
SUMMARY.

2. NORDIC DELEGATIONS WERE SUPPLEMENTED BY VISITORS
FROM CAPITALS: FROM STOCKHOLM--AGILD, BOARD OF COMMERCE,
AND BELFRAGE AND ERICSSON FROM MINISTRY OF FOREIGN
AFFAIRS AND COMMERCE; FROM OSLO--THODESEN, MINISTRY OF

INDUSTRY; FROM HELSINKI--SUNDBACK, MINISTRY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS, AND SARMAVUORI, MINISTRY FOR FINANCE. ON US SIDE, MARY JANE WIGNOT, STAFF MEMBER OF HOUSE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE SAT IN AS AN OBSERVER.

3. SWEDISH DEL (LEMMEL) PRESENTED US WITH DETAILED TARIFF OFFER ON INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTS WHICH APPLIED SWISS FORMULA HAVING PARAMETER OF 16 WITH NO INITIAL EXCEPTIONS. (OFFER--185 PAGES LONG--BEING HAND CARRIED TO STR WITH FIRST AVAILABLE TRAVELER.) SWEDEN INDICATED THAT IT IS WILLING TO MAKE DEEPER-THAN-FORMULA OFFERS IN RESPONSE TO REQUESTS, BUT DOES NOT ACCEPT AUTOMATICITY CALLED FOR UNDER US NO-NET EXCEPTIONS APPROACH. SWEDES ALSO NOTED DIFFICULTIES THEY HAVE IN PARTICULAR ECONOMIC SECTORS OF THE SWEDISH ECONOMY AND NOTED THAT SWEDEN COULD NOT MAINTAIN OFFERS IN THESE SECTORS IF OTHER COUNTRIES HAD EXCEPTIONS IN THE SAME SECTORS. THEY ALSO NOTED THAT THEIR OFFER LEVEL WAS TIED TO THE OFFER LEVEL OF THE EC.

4. FINNISH DEL (KUOSMANEN) INDICATED THAT BECAUSE OF TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES AND FINNISH DESIRE TO REVIEW AND SIMPLIFY TARIFF STRUCTURE, DETAILED FINNISH OFFER WOULD NOT BE READY UNTIL MID-APRIL. FINNS WILL TABLE NUMBER OF INITIAL EXCEPTIONS WHICH WILL APPROXIMATE 10 PERCENT OF FINNISH IMPORTS. FINNISH OFFER WILL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 GENEVA 03920 01 OF 02 132009Z

REDUCE AVERAGE TARIFF FROM 5.5 PERCENT TO 3.2 PERCENT (APPROXIMATELY 40 PERCENT REDUCTION) WITH NO GREATER-THAN-FORMULA OFFERS EXCEPT IN TECHNICAL CASES. NORWEGIAN DEL (SELMER) INDICATED THAT NORWEGIAN OFFER ALSO WILL NOT BE READY FOR ANOTHER MONTH AND WILL CONTAIN NUMBER OF EXCEPTIONS, MAINLY TEXTILES, BUT ALSO INCLUDING SOME ELECTRONICS AND CHEMICALS. EXCEPTIONS WOULD NOT EXCEED 5 TO 6 PERCENT OF TOTAL IMPORTS.

5. US DEL (BALE) WELCOMED SWEDISH ACTION IN TABLING DETAILED OFFER AND ENCOURAGED NORWEGIANS AND FINNS TO ACCELERATE WORK IN ORDER TO AVOID DELAYS IN PLANNED SPRING ACTIVITIES IN MTN LEADING TO JULY 15 TARGET DATE FOR COMPLETION. DEL ALSO STATED THAT US GOAL IS TO ACHIEVE SUBSTANTIAL TARIFF REDUCTIONS. INITIAL US OFFER EXCEEDED MINIMUM GOAL OF 40 PERCENT AND EXPRESSED HOPE THAT NORDIC OFFERS AND EXCEPTIONS WOULD BE IN LINE WITH DEGREE OF TARIFF LIBERALIZATION US WAS SEEKING OVERALL IN MTN. DEL NOTED THAT US TARIFF OFFERS UNDER THE HYPOTHESIS ON IMPORTS FROM THE NORDIC COUNTRIES AVERAGED A 56 PERCENT CUT, WHILE NORDIC OFFERS AS DISCUSSED ABOVE APPEAR TO BE IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD OF 37 TO 40

PERCENT ON THEIR IMPORTS FROM THE WORLD AND THE UNITED STATES IN PARTICULAR.

6. NORDIC COUNTRIES DISCUSSED RESULTS OF FURTHER EVALUATIONS OF US OFFER. NORDICS EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT WHAT US OFFERS WOULD LOOK LIKE ON ASP AND DINNERWARE AND US INTENTION ON THE FOB/CIF ISSUE. THEY ALSO INDICATED CONCERN OVER US MANDATORY EXCEPTIONS ON SPECIALTY STEEL OF INTEREST TO SWEDEN, WOODEN SHOES OF INTEREST TO NORWAY, AND GLASSWARE. NORWEGIANS MIGHT WISH TO RAISE IN FUTURE THE US EXCLUSION OF PETROLEUM FROM MTN AND INDICATED THEY WOULD BE PUSHING FOR ELIMINATION OF US LOW-DUTIES ON FISH. NORDICS ADMITTED, NEVERTHELESS, THAT THESE WERE A FEW DARK SPOTS IN A SUBSTANTIAL OFFER AND HOPED THAT THERE NOT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 04 GENEVA 03920 01 OF 02 132009Z

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PAGE 01 GENEVA 03920 02 OF 02 132009Z
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FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7156

INFO AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 02 OF 02 GENEVA 03920

USMTN

ACTION STR PASS ELECTRONICALLY. STR PASS CODEL

BE EROSION IN THE US OFFER. US DEL RESPONDED THAT
MAINTENANCE OF US OFFER DEPENDED UPON RECIPROCITY
ON THE PART OF ITS TRADING PARTNERS.

7. US MTN DEL EXPRESSED INTEREST IN PURSUING NEGOTIATIONS
IN AGRICULTURE AND OBTAINED COMMITMENT FROM NORDIC
COUNTRIES TO MEET TO INITIALLY REVIEW OFFERS ON
AGRICULTURE ON MARCH 21.

9. DRAFTED BY BALE. MCDONALD

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